

Statement from Responsible Wagering Australia to 7.30. 5 March 2019

“When RWA was formed, its Members including Sportsbet recognised that there was significant community concern regarding the volume of wagering advertising being viewed by children on television, particularly during live sport. As a consequence, the Members of RWA bound themselves to a publicly available Code of Conduct committing them to advocate in-favour of a reduction in the volume of wagering advertising.”

“RWA has been a vocal and consistent advocate for Government reform to reduce the volume of television wagering advertising experienced by minors. A major consequence of this advocacy was the Federal Government’s introduction of a ban on gambling advertising during live sport broadcasts between 5am and 8:30pm when children are most likely to be watching. These changes have already resulted in a significant reduction in the volume of broadcast advertising. Not only is Sportsbet compliant with the Code of Conduct, it has long advocated for even tougher advertising restrictions than these including a complete whistle-to-whistle ban on advertising during televised sport.”

“In addition to these major broadcast reforms, RWA has advocated in favour of reductions in the volume of high-impact static advertising readily viewable by minors, including around public transportation and in close proximity to schools. These significant reforms together with the age-gating of major social media platforms has substantially reduced the volume of wagering advertising likely to be viewed by minors.”

“RWA and its Members have also led the way on other significant reforms aimed at addressing community concerns about wagering. RWA has been the leading proponent of the National Consumer Protection Framework which will significantly raise industry standards by reducing timeframes for identity verification, introducing a national ban on new account sign up offers, make it easier for customers to set deposit limits and create a National Self-Exclusion Register.”

“The Federal Government recently received a comprehensive independent review into Australia’s sports integrity arrangements by the Hon James Wood AO QC. The Review reaffirmed that the primary wagering-related threat to the integrity of sport is the pervasive illegal offshore wagering industry. The Wood Review clearly recognised that Australian-licensed operators like RWA’s Members play a crucial positive role in safeguarding the integrity of sport through the integrity agreements they have with every major sporting body. At no point in the 280 pages of the Wood Review is there any concern raised about sponsorship by Australian-licensed wagering operators.”

Responsible Wagering Australia spokesperson